

Talking to Your Professor

Most professors appreciate students who seek out help and ask questions, it shows that you are engaged and care about your academics. Below discusses how and when to talk to your professor.

Office Hours	Making Requests Politely	Asking for Clarification
<p>These are typically listed on the syllabus, or you may have to make an appointment by email or asking after class. You can go to office hours to clarify confusion, reassure yourself, or have a conversation. It's a good idea to let the professor know in advance that you'd like to come in. Just say something like, "Could I come see you during your office hours to talk about...?"</p>	<p>Sometimes you may need a favor or let your professor know about your situation. Explain your situation and then make the request. Try using the word "would".</p> <p><i>"I'd really like my paper to be the best of my ability but I got into a car accident and it's been stressful. Would you mind letting me have until Saturday to submit it?"</i></p> <p><i>"I really need to go to the doctor and the only available time they have is during class. Would you mind if I got notes from a classmate?"</i></p>	<p>Sometimes you don't understand the concepts presented in class, the language used in lecture, or the instructions for an assignment. When you feel like this, it is best to politely ask for clarification:</p> <p><i>"I'm sorry. I'm not sure I understood ___ would you mind explaining that one more time?"</i></p>

Asking for Feedback	Ending the Conversation
<p>Professors appreciate when students ask for feedback on their work. They may not suggest every single change that should be made, but the most important ones instead. Be sure to be specific when asking for feedback. Instead of asking "could you look over my paper?" you could ask "could you look over the organization and tables in my paper?"</p>	<p>Every culture has different ways to interact politely with a professor. When the conversation is over, say thank you, see you in class! Pick up your things, say goodbye, then turn around and walk away without looking back. Most professors will make eye contact until you turn around and walk out of their office or classroom.</p>